Claims

1-16. (canceled)

17.(new) A motor vehicle beam shell designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, the shell having with a recess for receiving a strength member, the shell including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member.

18.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the strength member comprises at least one material from the group consisting of metal and a composite material including a metal.

19(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 18, wherein the metal comprises aluminum.

20.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the strength member includes an outside shape and the recess is dimensioned to fit snugly around at least a region of the outside shape.

21(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 20, wherein the region is selected from the group consisting of a central portion of the shell and a portion of the shell that is disposed in register with side rails of the vehicle.

22.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess is defined by a portion of the shell that has an open cross-section.

23.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell is dimensioned to fit snugly into an inside shape of the bumper skin behind which the beam is to be placed.

24.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell includes a plurality of recesses for receiving a plurality of strength members.

25.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess includes an impact-absorber.

26.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 25, wherein the impact absorber includes honeycombs.

27.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell comprises a thermoplastic material.

28.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 27, wherein the thermoplastic material includes polypropylene.

29.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell cladding encloses the strength member.

30.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the shell includes at least two fasteners for fastening to the structure of the vehicle, and in which the recess extends longitudinally from one fastener to the other.

31.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess is provided in register with a motor vehicle side rail when the shell of the beam is mounted on the vehicle.

32.(new) The motor vehicle beam shell of claim 17, wherein the recess consists of a channel.

33.(new) An assembly for a motor vehicle comprising a beam shell and a strength member, the beam shell designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, the shell having

with a recess for receiving the strength member, the shell including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member, the strength member comprising a tubular side rail extension having a generator line substantially parallel to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, in particular an extension in the form of a beveled tube.

34.(new) The assembly of claim 33, wherein the extension received includes a support part.

35.(new) The assembly of claim 34, wherein the support part includes a stow/tow ring.

36.(new) The assembly of claim 33, wherein the the strength member vertically supports the beam.

37.(new) A motor vehicle beam designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, said beam including a strength member and a shell having with a recess for receiving a strength member, the shell including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member..

38.(new) A motor vehicle beam designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, the beam including an assembly comprising a beam shell and a strength member, the beam shell designed to be placed behind a bumper skin, the shell having with a recess for receiving the strength member, the shell including shell cladding which interfits with the shell, thereby forming a hollow body defining the recess for receiving the strength member, the strength member comprising a tubular side rail extension having a generator line substantially parallel to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, in particular an extension in the form of a beveled tube.